

Sustainability Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
Video Conference
October 14, 2020

Present: Lynn Stoddard, Bill Lennon, Peter Millman, Matt Lisy, Sena Wazer (guest), Virginia Walton (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 by chairperson Stoddard.

Introductions were made.

On a motion by Lisy/Millman, the minutes of the September 16, 2020 meeting were approved.

Sena Wazer asked the Committee to present a climate emergency resolution to the Town Council that acknowledges the severity of the climate crisis and commits to take action on climate change. Climate emergency resolutions have been adopted by New Haven and New Britain and are being lobbied for in other towns across the state. Members asked for copies of the New Haven and New Britain resolutions, and discussed incorporating into a resolution the recommendations from the August 31, 2018 Climate Action Task Force final report and the November 13, 2018 Sustainability Committee report to Town Council. Walton was directed to share these documents with the committee before its next meeting. Discussion will continue during the November meeting.

The Committee reviewed the architect's response to the Sustainability Committee's comments on the new school building plans. Some points were clarified, others were not. It was decided that the best way to interact in the process would be to attend an upcoming School Building Committee meeting. Walton will find out dates and share the schedule with members.

The Green Bank recently gave a progress report on SolarMAP (municipal assistance program) to the Town Manager and other staff members. Eversource's ZREC (Zero-Emission Renewable Energy Credits) auction has been delayed - a vendor for the municipal solar projects will be selected by November 27, 2020. Municipal agreements must be executed by December 14, 2020 in order to participate. Because of the short timeline, the Town Manager suggested that Town Council review the agreement template in October or November so that the agreement can be executed once the price per kilowatt-hour is determined. On a motion by Lennon/Millman, the Committee approved sending Town Council an endorsement of the SolarMAP agreement. Lisy offered to research the life cycle analysis of solar installations. Members recommended the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) or EPA as reliable sources of information.

Walton reported that the Mansfield Windham Solar for All campaign has been extended to the end of October. Thus far, 50 households have responded (27 in Mansfield/23 in Windham). Three systems have been installed and 11 installations (5 in Mansfield/6 in Windham) are in the permitting or installation process.

Future meeting agenda items: feedback from attendance to school building committee and climate emergency resolution.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 11, 2020.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton